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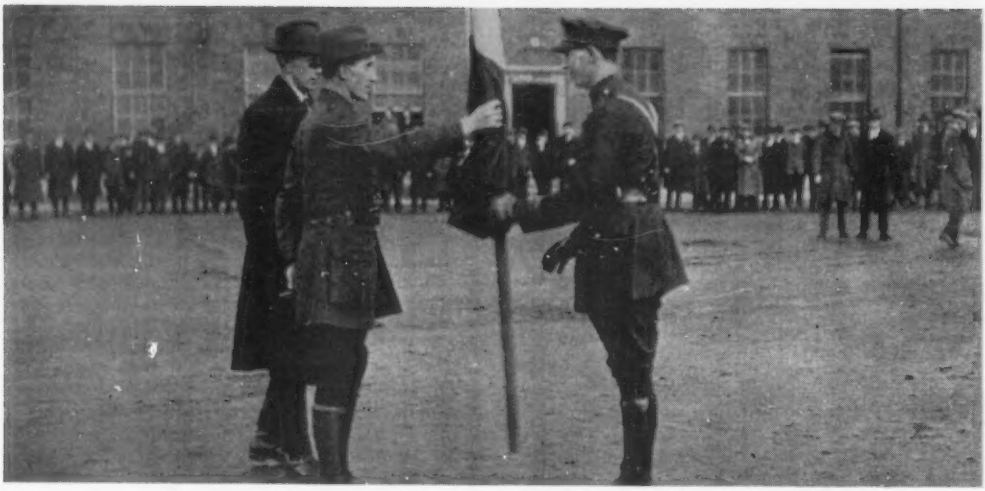


Gen. Richard Mulcahy receiving the colours on taking over Beggars Bush Bks. Jan. 1922.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE IRISH VOLUNTEERS 1916-1922 PART II

Risteard Mulcahy, M.D., F.R.C.P., F.R.C.P.I.

RICHARD Mulcahy's role was concerned with the formal organisation of the Volunteers. This included the integration of Staff activities, the divisionalisation of the Army, the direction of the attacks on police barracks and the organisation of Flying Columns, and the issuing of directives and orders on a wide variety of topics. He also had the function of maintaining regular contact with Cathal Brugha, first when Brugha was Chairman of the Resident Executive and afterwards, when the Dail was established, when he was Minister for Defence. It is clear from his papers that his personal and organisational attributes made him a suitable person to bring and keep together the different elements that made up the leadership and the membership of the Volunteers.

At first the GHQ Staff held regular weekly meetings, generally at the Dublin Typographical Society's Offices, which were also the Headquarters of the Dublin Brigade. By the end of 1919, after the suppression of the Dail and with the increasing intensity of the War, it was no longer safe to hold full meetings of the Staff. From this time regular meetings took place between the Chief of Staff and individual members of the Staff and, except on a few occasions, no more than two or three people were present at the same time. From this time too the place of the meetings was frequently changed and we are given a list of the twelve locations which were most commonly used.

He also gives a list of the places which he used as accommodation whilst he was on the run. At this time the bicycle was the principle means of locomotion for the Army leaders. This gave them a mobility which was their main protection. Their only disguise was to move about with an assurance which disarmed everybody. Another factor which provided immunity from the British was the loyalty of the citizens of Dublin and of many members of the Dublin Metropolitan Police.

The work of the GHQ Staff was largely concerned with the divisionalisation of the army, the formation of companies, battalions and brigades, the encouragement and enforcement of discipline, efforts to build up the supply of arms and the perfection of communications. Mulcahy claims that the Volumteers were the hard core of the emerging political organisation of Sinn Fein and he states that much of the organisation of the Volunteers in 1918 took place under cover of the by-elections of this time.

I refer later to his views on the relationship between the Army and the Civil Authority, and also to the changing policy of aggression which took place over the three years 1918 to 1921 and to the forces that brought about these changes in policy. In the meantime in discussing organisation it is worth looking at the relationship between the leadership in Dublin and the active fighting units of the IRA.

At all times there was a close association between the Dublin Brigade and the GHQ Staff, not only because of their physical propinquity, but particularly because of the influence of Dick McKee, who was on the Staff as Director of Training and who was OC of the Dublin Brigade until his death in November 1920. The Squad was a full-time group of Volunteers who worked closely with Collins. The members of the Squad had close contacts with the Dublin Brigade. The Active Service Unit was made up of part-time members of the Dublin Brigade who were also closely involved with Headquarters Staff activities.

McKee was a close friend and confidant of both Collins and Mulcahy. His death and that of his Vice-Commandant Peadar Clancy after Bloody Sunday was a severe blow to the leadership. According to the papers there was somewhat less intimacy between the Dublin Brigade and the GHQ later in the War when Traynor was the OC but nevertheless the Dublin Brigade worked closely with the Squad, the Active Service Unit and GHQ right up to the Truce.

As far as I can determine, the only action of the Dublin Brigade which was not initiated by the GHQ Staff and which received only its qualified approval was the burning of the Custom House in May 1921. This action was symptomatic of the developing involvement of the Sinn Fein Government in Army policy and activities, a tendency which followed the return of De Valera from America.

The relationship between GHQ and the country Divisions was more difficult and complex than the Dublin situation. Here there were occasions of disharmony and distrust and to understand these it is important to consider the circumstances of the time. There were obvious problems of communication in the earlier stages of the War but these diminished gradually up to the time of the Truce. The type of people who were active in the country were not always the most systematic writers of reports and letters, and there was the perennial problem of security in sending communications.

It was not always possible for local units to avoid reacting to aggression by the British and as British repressive measures and reprisals became more frequent, inevitable local reaction followed. Mulcahy refers to the exasperation caused by the aggressiveness of the police and how this detonated local reaction, including the use of firearms. Reaction was frequently encouraged by the local population who came increasingly to expect protection from the Volunteers.

In my discussion with my father I took the line that violence had no place in the solution of political problems and I asked him to justify the 1916 Rebellion and the War of Independence and its aftermath. As regards the War of Independence, he did not comment on the moral issues of the War, but he said that the Irish aggression became inevitable as British measures increased against the political activities of Sinn Fein and the separatists from the summer of 1917 onwards. The Volunteers' reaction was largely defensive in nature. He refers to the problem for those at Headquarters who, without wanting to damp down the spirit of resistence, wanted to avoid the political and military dangers of armed conflict and of deaths and other losses.

In GHQ's contacts with the country, it was inevitable that some active and independent spirits would take affairs in their own hands. This trend was understandable in those areas where the British had been virtually cleared out by the widespread destruction of police barracks. There were many instances of peripheral impatience with the leaders in Dublin and this was more evident in some areas than in others. Mulcahy refers for example to the South Tipperary Volunteers who described GHQ in general and himself in particular as being mealy-mouthed with regards to sacrificing the lives of their own people and even being unnecessarily cautious about taking the lives of the enemy. Another example is to be found in Sean Treacy's book where, in referring to excessive Volunteer quiescence, Treacy comments about the disintegration that threatened the laboriously built-up Volunteer force.

He is quoted:

> 'If this is the state of affairs we will have to kill someone to make the bloody enemy organise us.'

Mulcahy defends GHQ's policy of prudence. He states that these things were a matter of conscience. They were also a matter of political expediency, of common sense and in accordance with the spirit in which the Volunteers were first founded as a defence force.

The most frustrating factor in the relationship between Headquarters and the field was the shortage of arms and ammunition. Repeated applications to Headquarters had to be refused and this was particularly frustrating for the more active Units. The shortage of arms may have accounted for the many areas in the country where no military activity took place. The difficulties for Headquarters can be appreciated when one examines the situation which existed in July 1921 when the Truce was arranged. Three hundred and seventy-two Divisional and Brigade officers and 53,992 other ranks had a total of 1724 Lee Enfield and 752 Martini rifles. Including the obsolete Howth rifles and other odds and ends, the Army had a total of less than 3500 rifles. Rifle ammunition was in short supply with about 35 rounds per gun. There were 42 sub-machine guns, although at least two of these were out of order. The Dublin Brigade, with an establishment of 3382 members, had 140 Lee Enfield and 48 Martini rifles. Of course only a fraction of the 53000 men were active and even fewer were fulltime soldiers, as is

apparent from the fact that, as far as I can ascertain, the only actions where more than 50 Volunteers were employed were Crossbarry in March 1921 and the Custom House in May 1921.

Another Factor encouraging spontaneous activity in country areas, particularly in the south, was the failure of these country Brigades to take part in the 1916 Rebellion. As already stated, this was a source of disappointment to many and of humiliation to some. The attitude to Dublin and to Headquarters of "You have had your 1916, give us a chance now" is easily understandable.

In the local histories of the War, such as the "Fighting Stories" series, there are some uncomplimentary allusions to the activities of organisers sent down from Dublin. They knew nothing of local affairs and they had little insight into local circumstances and needs, but Mulcahy refers to the great work done by people like Dick McKee and Ernie O'Malley and others. As an example he quotes Liam Deasy of the 3rd Cork Brigade who, in an interview with him in 1963, spoke of the six-day intensive training course given by Dick McKee at Glandore in August 1919.

> 'The cumulative effect of Dick McKee's training and leadership was evident in the fighting record of every unit of the 3rd Cork Brigade in the succeeding two years when attacks, raids and ambushes were carried out with a verve and competence which would have done credit to the elite corps of any army in the world. In Dick McKee the fighting men of West Cork had found a mentor worthy of their mettle'.

What can we deduce from the general evidence about relations between Headquarters and the country units? It is that, under the circumstances and severe constraints of the times, and bearing in mind the total lack of traditional military and political discipline amongst the people of Ireland up to the early 20th century, there was a remarkably cordial and harmonious relationship between country divisions and Headquarters which manifested itself progressively from 1918 to the end of the Truce in January 1922. It is evident from the Mulcahy papers that country activities and pressures required to be restrained at times and that Headquarters held these powers of restraint. It is evident that no action was ever disapproved of by Headquarters, apart from the Solohead and Innishannon episodes. Indeed Headquarters's acceptance of spontaneous country activities and innovations may have been an important factor in ensuring a stable and cohesive relationship between the Dublin leaders and the Government on the one hand and the country Brigades on the other. The prudent attitude of Headquarters was clearly important in the evolution of the Army's policy of aggression.

Headquarters was apparently willing to compromise and to be tolerant of local intransigence but there is no doubt, as Fitzpatrick states in his *Politics and Irish Life*(1) that central control by Headquarters became more manifest as

Jan. 1922 evacuation of the Auxiliaries.

the war continued. Writing on this subject, Mulcahy states that there is a general failure to appreciate the large part played by GHQ in imposing national policy on and in achieving control of the Army. The great amount of material in the University archives testifies to GHQ's dominant role.

Many actions were initiated locally without consultation with Headquarters, usually in response to local pressures, but such actions usually received the approval of Headquarters and the Civil Authorities because they conformed to the military and ethical policies of the Army and the Dail. Despite these local spontaneous actions, the documentary evidence available to us confirms that Headquarters, through its policy of divisionalisation, through its control and integration of the destruction of the police barracks and tax offices, and of the activities of the flying columns, through its control of the appointments of Divisional, Brigade and Battalion officers, through its effective imposition of discipline and ethical standards, through its regular distribution of orders on a wide variety of military and organisational matters, and through its responsibility for supplies and training, gave us an Army which evolved in an orderly and disciplined way. The Army's orderly evolution under the circumstances and difficulties of the time was little short of remarkable. Not the least of these difficulties was the size of the British Forces, which, during Lloyd George's intensified war in the Spring of 1921, were made up of Black and Tans, the Auxillaries, the remnants of the RIC and 80,000 British regular soldiers.

The papers contain a great amount of material in the form of communications between the GHQ Staff and the active units. The material testifies to the close and improving communication between the leadership and the army in the field up to and including the Truce. The material covered by the General Orders also testifies to the same situation. For example, a perusal of GHQ General Orders covers at random such subjects as recommendation about actions in military situations and in civil

situations, advice about conducting correspondence within the Organisation, the boycotting of the RIC, the medical treatment of the wounded, the seizure of arms by the enemy, the functions of the volunteer police force, emigration as a form of desertion, the organisation of the courts, the handling of women spies, the procedures as regards the death penalty and as regards the treatment of deserters, association with the enemy, the management of records, the recognition of bravery, publicity, information to the enemy, purchase of war material, reprisals, etc., etc.

The relationship between Headquarters and the country divisions naturally leads on to the question of the policy of the Army as regards defence and aggression from 1918 to the Truce of July, 1921. The Irish Volunteers were established in 1913 as a defence force

> 'To secure and maintain the rights and liberties common to all the people of Ireland.'

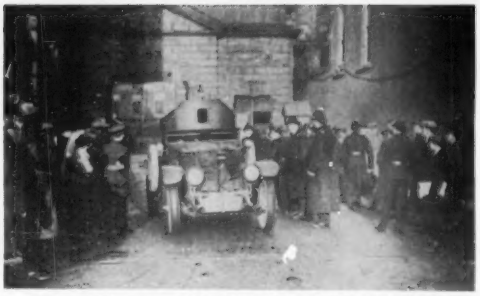
This defensive or non-aggressive policy remained the policy of the Volunteers after the Volunteer Convention of October, 1917 despite their new political role. It remained the official policy of the civil and military leaders up to the suppression of the Dail and other national, political and cultural organisations in September, 1919.

In April, 1918 the Bishops had stated, in response to the conscription threat,

> 'The Irish people have a right to resist by every means that are consonant with the Laws of God'

and this edict, according to Doctor McConnell of Cork, gave the Army the status and justification of a National Army. However, it was Cathal Brugha's view that the Volunteers could never be anything but a threat to England. Mulcahy states that Griffith and the other political and military leaders agreed with Brugha and were strongly for controlling violence and keeping their powder dry. It was always a delicate and shrewd function of the military leaders to steer a balanced course between the Scylla of a prudent national policy of defence and the Charybdis of local reaction to British oppression.

After the suppression of the Dail in 1919 things changed. According to Mulcahy an elective decision was made by himself and the military leaders, in consultation with Brugha who was Minister for Defence, to pursue a more active if somewhat prudent policy of aggression. This was manifested in early 1920 by the attack and subsequent burning of more than 300 police barracks, by the destruction of the Income Tax offices and by clearing the British forces out of large tracts of the Irish countryside. It was also manifested by extending the Flying Column or Active Service Unit idea from Limerick and Clare, where it originated, to other parts of the country, and by the many other measures against the British Forces laid down in the various orders issued from HQ during 1920 and the first half of 1921.



The handing over of Dublin Castle January 16, 1922.

I say that the new policy of aggression was a prudent one because GHQ was constantly reminded of the relatively small core of active Volunteers which was available and because of the serious shortage of arms. Major actions, involving large numbers of men, had to be avoided at all costs and here the Army leaders were in disagreement with De Valera after his return from America when he was critical of Army policy and when he said to the Chief of Staff:

> 'This shooting of a policeman here and there is bad for our reputation abroad. It would be better to have a pitched battle once a month or so with 500 men on each side.'

The attack on the Custom House, which was apparently initiated by Dev and Brugha, received only reluctant approval from Headquarters. The results of that attack, when the Dublin Brigade lost 70 men captured and nearly twenty dead or wounded, and when there was a loss of valuable arms, was a good example of the threat to the limited Irish forces.

The action at Crossbarry in Cork in March, 1921 was carried out by an unusually large force of the Cork Brigade against an overwhelming number of British troops. Fortunately an Irish victory precluded serious Irish losses but the Army leaders were only too well aware of the increasing threat posed by the new British policy in the spring of 1921 when they began to employ large groups of military to sweep the insurgent countryside. It is Mulcahy's view that the earlier employment of the British military on a large scale would have quickly eliminated the vital core of the Irish forces after a few less fortunate largescale engagements like Crossbarry.

In several places he refers to a formal change of policy by the political and military leadership from one of defence to one of active aggression after the suppression of the Dail in September, 1919. He is very positive in this view and one must of course respect his opinion on this matter, but my impression of the evidence, limited as it is, would support the opinion of P. S. O'Hegarty(3) and others that the new policy of aggression was a gradual and inevitable consequence of the increasing repressive measures of the British and

the increasing reaction to these measures by the people and by the Volunteers.

(To Be Concluded).

(2) *Politics and Irish Life. 1913-1921.* David Fitzpatrick. Gill and MacMillan. Dublin, 1977.

(3) *Victory of Sinn Fein.* P. S. O'Hegarty. The Talbot Press. 1924.

CIVILIANIZATION

One of my pet hobby horses is the over-civilianization of the Army. For some time there has been a great cry, especially from the Civil Service, that a civilian is cheaper than a soldier. What they failed to add was that most soldiers are eventually replaced by three or more civilians and the loss of flexibility is enormous. We should now begin a long and protracted battle to MILITARIZE some of the posts that we have lost, regain some flexibility, and with luck reduce some bureaucracy.

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WHERE ARE THEY NOW? - No. 6

Sgt. Billy Norton

Cpl. Paddy Dowdall Feather-Weight Champion of Europe 1939

MANY great Army boxers represented Ireland in the Olympic Games and the European Championships but the greatest and most craftiest boxer of them all was Cpl. Paddy Dowdall, the only member of the Defence Forces to win a European title and a Golden Gloves title. The great Champion boxed as a Juvenile with the famous Myra B.C., he joined the Army on the 22nd July, 1937 serving with the Artillery Corps. The following year saw the beginning of his illustrious career when he won the All-Army Junior and Senior Feather-Weight Championship. Cpl. Dowdalls greatest year was 1939, retaining his Army Feather-Weight title and winning the National Junior Championship. The National Senior Champion in 1939 was Peter Glennon, Unity B. C. Cpl. Dowdall had been beaten in the Championship a few weeks earlier and had only won his place on the European team after taking part in a trial. A year previously he was completely unknown, and it did not take Cpl. Dowdall long to show that he had plenty of natural ability. He could look back on tough battles particularly his bout with the German Champion Anton Graaf and his gruelling Semi-Finals with the Englishman Jim Watson, but the final on that April night 41 years ago was the toughest of all. Paddy was matched with the Champion of Poland Anton Czortek, one of the most vicious punchers seen here. There were times when Czortek cornered the Irishman, Cpl. Dowdall instead of trying to make a painless getaway stood up to his Man slugged it out punch for punch and fought his way out, it was desperately close - but at the end Dowdall was the winner and Feather-Weight Champion of Europe. The new Champion was selected to represent Europe in the Golden Gloves tournament against the U.S.A. in Chicago on 12 May 1939, Cpl. Dowdall beat the American Champion Dick Lewis on points. In 1940 he was the National Feather-Weight Champion and holder of the Light-Weight title in 1942/43. The 1944/45 season saw Cpl. Paddy Dowdall in the Welter-Weight division. In the All-Army Championship held in the National Stadium he beat Pte. J. Keogh in the 1st series, in the 2nd series Cpl. Dowdall beat the 1944 Welter-Weight Champion Cpl. Mick Cashin, in the final which was held on the 5 Feb. 1945 Cpl. Dowdell qualified to meet the redoubtable Sgt. Billy Moore the Grand Old Man of Army boxing and Welter-Weight Champion in the mid 1930's. In one of the best fights seen for many years and at the end the title went to Sgt. Moore. In July, 1945 Cpl. Dowdall retired from the Army and later became

Cpl. Paddy Dowdall, 1939.

Professional Light-Weight Champion of Ireland. His departure from the Army brought to a close an historic era in Army boxing. In winning the European Crown and the Golden Gloves Cpl. Dowdall's record may endure for ever.

What a pity it is that the honour and glory which Men such as Cpl. Paddy Dowdall by his Skill and Courage brought to this country and the Army should be almost completely forgotton by the IABA and the Army Athletic Association, perhaps it is not surprising after all that our boxing standards have taken a dive. The once great champion died in the early 1960's and is buried in Mount Jerome Cemetery.

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Photos by Sgt. J. Broderick

Pte. D. Smallhorne, Ops. from the 5th Inf. Bn.

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Lt. L. Clancy, 2 Fd. Arty., Dublin.

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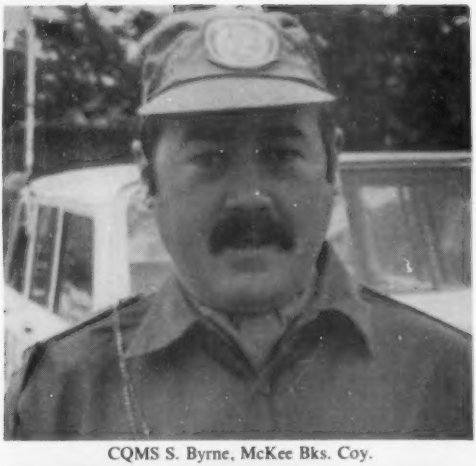
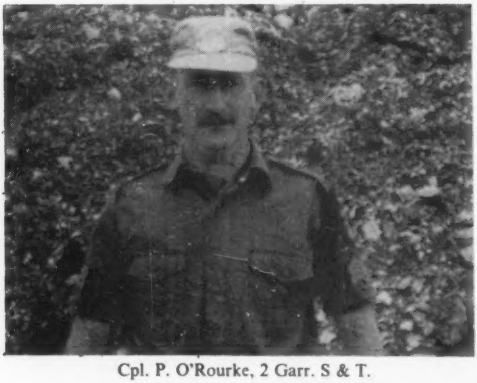
Pte. B. McMahon, Collins Bks., Cork.



CQMS S. Byrne, McKee Bks. Coy.

Cpl. J. Murphy, 3 Garr. S & T, Cork.

Cpl. C. Wiely, 5 Fd. S & T.



Cpl. P. O'Rourke, 2 Garr. S & T.

6 Fd. S & T members are L. to R: Pte. J. McGarry, Cpl. P. Foran and Cpl. T. Nolan.

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EASTERN COMMAND

Capt. P. Casey, McKee Bks. who was recently admitted to membership of the Irish Institute of Secretaries and Administrators. (Photo: P. Jones)

C/S L. O'Dwyer, who has retired after 41 years service mainly in Base Workshops Clancy Bks. photographed here with Capt. G. White, Air Corps. (Air Corps photo)

Col. J. B. Egan has recently been promoted in the Chief of Staff's Br. AHQ (Air Corps photo)

Capt. J. Doyle, 7 Inf. Bn. who has retired from the F.C.A.

New flgas recently presented to O.N.E. at Collins Bks. Dublin, Present were L. to R: P. Hayes, J. McGann, J. O'Leary, Lt. Col. L. Doyle (Retd.), W. Tobin, P. Maguire and N. Johnston.

Recently promoted Brig. Gen. W. Prendergast, Asst. Chief of Staff. (Air Corps photo)

WESTERN COMMAND

Comd. Hqrs. Team winners of the Custume Bks. Soccer League. Front L. to R: Cpls. J. Gaffney, T. King, P. Greene, Ptes. J. Cullen, B. Connolly. Back: Cpl. T. Conway, Pte. J. Parkes, Sgt. T. Barclay, Cpl. J. Browne, Sgt. M. Daly, Sgt. W. Farrell, Cpl. S. Scullion and CQMS M. Dowling. (Photo: Cpl. P. O'Callaghan)

Winners of a snooker competition in the Forester Club Athlone L. to R: Ptes. M. McDonald, W. Moran, Sgt. P. Cooley and Pte. M. McKenna. (Photo: Cpl. P. O'Callaghan)

Cpl. S. Burke, Best Soldier on a Potential NCOs Course held at Custume Bks. Athlone with Miss C. Eivers. (Photo: Sgt. P. Devaney)

Custume Barracks Darts Team. Front L. to R: Sgt. F. McManus, Pte. C. McManus, Comdt. M. Tallon, Sgt. G. Quinn, Pte. T. Carberry, Sgt. B. Grady. Back: Ptes. Dunnican, Sgt. A. McCormack, Cpl. E. Mulcahy, Mrs. & Sgt. D. Regan, Cpl. & Mrs. T. Cunningham. (Photo: Cpl. P. O'Callaghan)

CQMS B. Curry, Custume Bks. a prizewinner in the snooker competition receiving his prize from Mr. H. Macken.

Custume Bks. Team winners of the W. Comd. Badminton championship. Front L. to R: Lt. Cols. J. Barrett and T. O'Connell; Lt. J. Fitzgibbon; Capt. C. Harvey. Back: CQMS P. Harte; Cpl. T. Coyne; Pte. E. Spain; Capt. B. Healy; Comdt. D. McManus. (Photo: Capt. S. O Fiachain)

SOUTHERN COMMAND

After serving over 40 years mainly in the MPC C/S J. Conroy and Cpl. J. Crowley retired at Collins Bks., Cork. With them is Comdt. N. Fitzgerald.

Sgt. Maj. John Ahern and Ptes. Patrick and Thomas Hartnett all recently retired after 40 years service in the 13th Bn. FCA photographed here with L. to R: Lt. J. Walsh, Mrs. Ahern, Comdt. J. G. O'Shea, Bn. O. C., at Fitzgerald Camp, Fermoy. (Photo: Pte. J. Thornhill).

The Chief of Staff visiting Kickham Bks. Clonmel with Sgt. B. Raymond of the Pipe Band and Brig. Gen. K. Nunan, Lt. Col. B. Cassidy and Comdt. L. O'Connor. (Photo: Sgt. M. Twomey).

Winners of 15 Infantry Battalion Cross Country Championship - 1980. Front Row L. to R: Cpl. V. Clifford; 2/Lt. C. O'Brien; Comdt. M. Harrington (OC 15 Bn.); Comdt. J. Moran (OC 'B' Coy. 15 Bn.) and Pte. P. O'Shea. Back Row: Cpl. T. O'Sullivan (Trg. NCO); Ptes. M. Cournane (Driver); M. Galvin; P. Maher; Cpl. T. O'Shea; CQMS J. Boyle and Cpl. P. O'Donoghue.

Officers who completed 'A' Adm. Course at Collins Bks., Cork. Back Row L. to R: Lts. E. Doyle; P. Brennan; M. Clancy; P. Murphy and M. Murphy. Front: Lts. B. White; M. Boylan; S. Heaney; Capt. B. Donagh (Inst); Comdt. P. J. Kelly, OC D.T. Depot; Lts. J. Hanlon and J. Dawson. (photo: Sgt. M. Twomey)

Visiting Kickham Bks. Clonmel, the Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Carl O'Sullivan inspecting the 12th Inf. Bn. accompanied by the O.C. Lt. Col. B. Cassidy and Comdt. L. Kiely. (Photo: Sgt. M. Twomey).

CURRAGH COMMAND

The Minister for Defence Mr. P. Faulkner, T.D. on his first visit to the Curragh Comd. with the Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. C. O'Sullivan, the O.C. 6 Bde. Col. T. O'Hanlon and O.I.C. Guard of Honour Lt. V. Harris, G.T.D. (Photo: O. McCrossan)

Best Soldier in his platoon was Pte. David Denver with Lt. V. Harris and Sgt. N. O'Connell at McDonagh Bks. (Photo: O. McCrossan)

Recruiting in the Northern Sector of the Curragh Comd. are from left: Pte. P. Birch, Lt. E. O Neachtain and Sgt. P. Confrey. (Photo: O. McCrossan)

A cheque for £3,000 being presented to Mr. A. Tabbett of Concern by Brig. Gen. D. Hurley with on left Dean J. Paterson and Fr. P. Daly C.F. The funds were collected in the Command area. (Photo: Curragh Press Office)

On the range with the Milan missile L. to R: Cpl. J. Morris, and Sgt. P. Wibl, Dun Mhic Aoidh, Kildare. (Air Corps Photo)

Gnr. Brendan Downey, Irish National Champion adding the All Army Cross Country Title to that of the Curragh Comd. and Co. Kildare. Last month he competed in the CISM Championships at Fontaine Bleau. (Air Corps photo)

AIR CORPS

The SA 342L Gazelle delivered to Casement Aerodrome in January. (Air Corps photo).

Details:

Maximum Speed:	190 m.p.h.
Maximum Cruise:	165 m.p.h.
Ceiling:	4650 metres.
No. of Passengers:	5 (2/3)

Colour Details:

The Gazelle has an overall light GREY colour scheme, with Dayglo areas on the fin and forward fuselage.

The National Insignia appear on the tail boom and the fin.

The serial number is in black on both sides . . . '237'

Sports Fixtures

Gymnastics	15-16 April	-	Curragh
Volleyball	22-23 April	-	Curragh
GAA Games	-	-	Croke Park
Hurling	9th April		
Defence Forces v Combined Universities			
Winners v Garda on 13/4/80			
Football			
Adv. Col. v Army 16/4/80		-	Croke Park
Winners to play Combined Universities or Garda on 20/4/80.			

Hawker Siddelley HS 125-600 No. 239 now in service from Casement Aerodrome. (Air Corps photo).

Lt. Col. W. Glenn making a presentation to Cook Sgt. D. Norris who has retired after 22 years service in the Air Corps. (Air Corps photo).

WELL KNIT:

Research by PARATUS shows that at all levels the Jewish community of South Africa has distinguished itself within the microcosm of South African history and politics, religion and economics, and also in the fight for self-determination.

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NAVAL SERVICE

W/O Liam Connick, receives a presentation from Cdr. L. S. Moloney, N.S. C.O. Naval Base on the occasion of his retirement. (N.S. Photo).

rize winning recruits. From left: Recs. David Irwin (Co. ublin) Best Shot; Gerard Saunders (Wexford Town) Best Kit and Philip Carr (Co. Donegal) Best Recruit. (N.S. photo)

Naval Recruits at their recent Passing Out Parade at Naval Base. Seated from left: Rev. Fr. M. O'Brien, C.F.; Lt. Cdr. P. Kavanagh, N.S. School Comdt. Naval School; Cdr. L. S. Moloney, NS C.O. Naval Base; Lt. F. Sheerin, C.T.D. W. Comd. where recruits were trained and Ens. G. O'Riordan, NS.

Mr. Michael O'Sullivan of Rototec (Ireland) presenting A/Mech. Sean Cremmin with the Rototec Award for welding proficiency. A/Mech. Cremmin has just completed an AnCO Block Release Course at AnCO, Cork. (N.S. Photo).

Recruits photographed at their Passing Out held recently in Naval Base with Front L. to R: L/Sig. Patrick Harrison (Class Instructor); Rev. Fr. M. O'Brien, C.F.; Cdr. L. S. Moloney, N.S. C.O. Naval Base; S/Lt. Thomas Tuohy, N.S. Trg. Offr.; S/O Dan Power, Master at Arms, Naval Base. (N.S. Photo).

Newly Commissioned Officers of the Naval Service from left: Ensigns Gerard McLoughlin; Gerard O'Riordan; Hugo Gallagher; George Curley; Jeremiah Buckley and Randal Counihan. (N.S. Photo).

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CITROËN

N.C.O.'s PROMOTIONS - FEBRUARY

Rank	Name	Unit	Promoted To	To
Sgt.	Codd, N.	30 Inf. Bn.	C/S	30 Inf. Bn.
Sgt.	Archbold, R.	4 Fld. S & T	CQMS	4 Fld. S & T
Sgt.	Collins, J.	1 FA Regt.	CQMS	1 FA regt.
Sgt.	Lawlor, P.	D. COE	CQMS	D. COE
CQMS	Donnan, J.	2 Garr. MPC	C/S	2 Garr. MPC
Sgt.	Masterson, S.	4 Fld. COE	CQMS	C. Trn. Depot W. Comd.
Sgt.	Walker, J.	2 Mtr. Sqdn.	C/S	E. Comd. FCA
CPO	Durkin, J.	N/S	SCPO	N/S
PO	Horgan, D.	N/S	CPO	N/S
PO	Hayes, W.	N/S	CPO	N/S
PO	Byrne, R.	N/S	CPO	N/S
PO	Murtagh, P.	N/S	CPO	N/S
PO	Dee, P.	N/S	CPO	N/S
PO	Carroll, P.	N/S	CPO	N/S

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WHAT THE PAPERS NOTICE

DRINKS FOR ALL

Donal Foley had the following piece in his Saturday *Irish Times* Column.

"CHARLIE HAUGHEY added his own distinctive touch to his first public function as Taoiseach last week. He was seeing President and Mrs. Hillery off from Dublin Airport on their 10-day State visit to Tanzania and Bahrein. Well, the Army had its customary guard of honour laid out on the tarmac while the diplomatic niceties were taking place. It's part of their job to stand to attention for about an hour-and-a-half in the freezing cold. This point, I'm told, did not excape the bold Charles.

After the President had boarded the plane, Charlie walked over to Captain Michael Rock, head of the guard of honour drawn from the 5th Battalion, Collins Barracks, and told him to buy a jar for the boys at the barracks and send the bill to him.

The books can't be that bad for the Budget if the Taoiseach can offer a round of 50 or so drinks like that! Or does he pay for them himself?"

We will have to get a military equivalent of that nautical term "Splice the Main brace" which is used when some dignitary orders a tot of rum for thirsty matelots. What could we suggest - "Stand to the Guard"? Let us hope some forward young officer i/c Guard of Honour does not march up to seek permission to "Dismiss the Guard" and add "We'll have 38 pints, 8 lager and 4 small ones, please." "And a large player for the band."

TANKS FOR THE MEMORY

SEAN LYNCH, Defence Correspondent of the *Irish Independent*, came to the support of some young members of the DUBLIN CARAVAN TOURING CLUB who sought the reprieve of an old Churchill tank.

The tank has been "standing guard over the Glen of Imaal for more than 20 years" according to Sean Lynch. "The old Churchill Tank has always been a great favourite among day trippers, especially children who climbed in and out of it." Obviously Martina Meredith (15), of Clondalkin, was one of the children and she noticed a huge hole beside the tank and learned from the locals that the Army proposed to bury it when the weather improved. So Martina "promptly set about collecting signatures pleading for a reprieve for the tank. They sent off a letter last Sunday to Brigadier General Hurley, Curragh Command, asking his support."

The Army case was a very reasonable one particularly in view of the sad incidents in the Glen not so long ago. "Officers reason that the tank is of no value and that it attracts children to an area which is potentially dangerous to them, if they wander down into the area immediately in front of it."

Newly appointed Adjutant General Maj. Gen. W. Callaghan. (Air Corps photo)

However there is a streak of Churchillian stubborness in Martina Meredith and the very next day in the *Irish Independent* there was a picture of her standing beside her tank. Sean Lynch opined that she "could well be the leader of the shortest ever preservation body to be formed in recent years." Miss Meredith seems ideal material for the Womens Service Corps. In a few years she may have a tank of her own.

Sean Lynch revealed that "a Churchill tank in far better condition is in Plunkett Barracks in the Curragh and the Army are seriously considering putting it on permanent display in Coolmooney Camp in the Glen of Imaal." Future Camp Commandants faced by hordes of tank spotters may not thank him for that revelation.

LIONS AND OLYMPICS

This has been the heading used in the *IRISH TIMES* letter page to embrace all the recent correspondence about Rugby Players and Olympic athletes. So you may not have noticed this opinion of you expressed by one Dermot O'Mahony. "To maintain effective neutrality the Haughey Administration will have to take stern measures. The Army as it is presently constituted is in no

New Comd. OCs are left Brig. Gen. P. J. Daly, E. Comd. and Brig. Gen. L. Hogan, W. Comd. (Air Corps photos)

condition to uphold our interests. Open recruitment has allowed some of the least desirable elements of society to slip into the Defence Forces. Only conscription will ensure an Army representative of all sections of the community and therefore committed to national defence. The civil liberties people will not agree. But the principle of universal civil liberty is at stake here and it calls for a display of national unity

Dermot O'Mahony, 46 Belmont Avenue
Donnybrook, Dublin 4."

How nationwide conscription could be more selective than the present vetting system at recruiting offices is a mystery only Mr. O'Mahony could explain to us. But recruiting is an emotive if topical subject. That distinguished Journal *Garda Review* had an editorial on it in the January issue and as far as we know the debate is still raging. Here was the *Garda Review* conclusion.

"It is true that we are still getting many fine young recruits. But it is no thanks to our own selection system. They come, often against the odds, from good families where the role of the Garda and the place of the force in society is still perceived much as it was twenty years ago. We need such young men and we welcome them. But side by side with these we are also getting some sorry base characters; rejects from organisations whose standards have been lifted higher in keeping with the rising educational profile of the community; we are getting young men whose personal lives are in such a mess that a well-paid and secure place in the police is seen as a refuge from their problems; we are getting - frankly - young men who will not be had anywhere else and whom our selection system is unable to catch when they turn up at their local Garda station possessed of the right physical requirements and a certain basic level of education.

These are not easy things to say in public. But we have been saying them in private too long. Professor Louden Ryan's report set out certain basic standards and argued cogently in favour of their implementation. We now urge the authorities to act speedily on these recommendations before the garda Siochana goes deeper into the morass which is now our recruitment system."

Cpl. D. McMonagle who completed a Potential NCOs Course at Custume Bks. with his family. (Photo: Sgt. P. Devaney)

MAGAZINES, BULLETINS, REVIEWS

Not strictly papers but three Army publications that came our way.

The Curragh Bulletin deserves pride of place as its January editorial informed us it was entering its 40th year. But changes it has seen. The January edition ran to 34 pages of varied hue but the Editor still was not satisfied. "I would much prefer to see less quantity and more quality" he wrote, and appealed to "amateur (!) humorists, cartoonists, quizmasters, puzzlers, poets, punters, tax evasion experts, etc. as well as those with something serious to offer". We were delighted to read that Comdt. Larry Coughlan's dog had returned home and a letter from the owner in TIBNIN thanked the observant Capt. Pat Healy for spotting the dog in MILLTOWN. Imagine Larry Coughlan's dog being a Shamrock Rovers fan. That was the good news. Now for the bad news. A bicycle is missing from the Coughlan household. The dog has obviously changed over to Finn Harps and is on his way to Ballybofey.

Also from the Curragh was the *Course Magazine* of the 4th Potential Officers Course 1978-79. And an excellent magazine it is with Pen Pictures and Photographs of the 25 students. It has poetry, cartoons and articles that are funny to those who were NOT on the Course and that is something rare. The editor, now Lt. C. McQuaid, is with the 1st Motor Squadron so who knows we may see a Kilworth Chronicle emerging down there.

The 4th Field Battery produced its *Annual Review* for 1978-79 and this is another excellent record of their year with articles, photographs and cartoons. The new Director Reserve Forces will be pleased with this extract from the "Last Word" feature.

"The FCA has now entered a new era and for the first time we have our own Command, responsible to FCA HQ. The new emphasis on the FCA puts responsibilities on us all and in the coming year we must realise that our end objective is complete self sufficiency as a Unit."

A STITCH IN TIME

The County Kildare Cross Country Championships were held over two months ago so Pat Murphy of athletic fame will NOT mind us telling the revealing details of why he came second and not first, as was confidently expected, for the 7th time.

To quote the report in the *Irish Press* -

"A conspiracy between a pair of shorts and a 20-year-old record destroyed Pat Murphy's challenge for the County Kildare Cross-Country Championship at Punchestown yesterday.

On the hills during the second lap the 36-year-old armyman's shorts ripped and so tore his prospects of a record equalling seventh win. A clubmate came to the rescue, the two exchanged shorts and Murphy finished second."

Greater love than this NO man hath that he should give up his shorts for his friend. But that phrase "ripped his shorts and so tore his prospects". It's enough to bring tears to your eyes.

Col. S. F. Casey has recently been promoted and appointed Director of Cavalry. (Air Corps photo)

The *Press* reports that "Murphy's 23-year-old near neighbour Brendan Downey strode to his first Kildare shield in heavy conditions". If our interpretation of the sports results in the January issue of the *Curragh Bulletin* is correct, the Brendan Downey referred to is Gunner Brendan Downey who won the Defence Forces Senior Cross Country at the Curragh on January 30th last. And who was second? A fully clad Cpl. Paddy Murphy, Arty. (att. ASPC).

TOP CATS

The *Kilkenny People* gave much publicity to the activities of Kilkenny's NO NAME CLUB which is as you know, The Club with no Beer. Weekly functions are held in a local hotel, totally teetotal, at which a good time is had by all except the local reps for Smithwick, Guinness et al. This month the *People* was chronicling the activities of the MNC who were in Dun Laoghaire for the occasion of the National Federation of Youth Club's Annual Conference. Evidently the Club moved up lock, stock and empty barrell to entertain the Delegates. And says the *People* -

"The guest of honour at the dinner was the Minister for State, Mr. James Tunney, T.D., who along with the large attendance enjoyed the splendid cabaret provided by the officers and men of the James Stephens' Barracks. The hour long show culminated in a splendid rendition by the entire company of American Civil War songs."

Heavy Weight:

Cpl. C. Switzer, 15 Inf. Bn. Tralee a member of the newly formed Unit Pipe Band but also famous as a weight lifter. He has won nine Irish International, seven Irish Senior and nine Inter Provincial titles. In the Power Lifting Match between Scotland and Ireland he won the heavy weight class and he also won silver and bronze medals in the Celtic Games as well as holding various Irish and Munster records. He has been awarded two Kerry Sports Star Trophies.

A versatile lot they are in James Stephens Barracks. Not alone do they include the All Army Inter-Unit Hurling Champions, "Three in a Row" 1977/78/79, but they produced an excellent Calendar to record it. No mention of the Cabaret Group on the Calendar. As the Sondheim song says "Maybe next year".

However the *Kilkenny People* concludes -

"Meanwhile, as the current season at the Newpark hotel in Kilkenny draws to a close (there are only 4 more nights) February 24 will be eagerly awaited to see the Army on stage again to take on a group representing Cork. This should be one of the most entertaining nights ever at the Club. The No Name Club will not take place on Sunday 17th due to a prior booking at the hotel."

SIC TRANSIT

The following extract from a recent Daily Telegraph may be of General interest.

"DEFENCE CUTS

Seeing a woman being driven from the Ministry of Defence in a Government Car recently Mrs. Thatcher, ever watchful over the minutiae of public spending, had the passenger investigated. She was in fact legitimate - a general's wife on her way to an official function - but the Prime Minister was still suspicious. She will be asking senior men at the M o D for a detailed report on who at the Ministry uses official cars, how often and what for. The Ministry may have to explain a couple of other things, too.

Q. When Whitehall is switching to Ford Granadas why are our generals in Germany driving new Daimlers?

A. Because, to the German Army, a Ford Granada is a grade II car and unsuitable for generals."

In Britain today its a case of Big Sister is watching you.

Geraldine Branagan who visited Lebanon to sing for UNIFIL this month.

On his first official visit to Finner Camp the Bishop of Clogher Dr. J. Duffy, inspects a Guard of Honour accompanied by Lt. Col. D. Mulvihill, O.C. 28 Bn. and Lt. N. Broughall. (Photo: Sgt. J. O'Brien)

It's the tobacco that counts.

John Player King Size

JPKE 42 MANUFACTURED IN DUBLIN

MIDDLE TAR As determined by Hazleton Laboratories Europe Ltd.

GOVERNMENT WARNING – SMOKING CAN DAMAGE YOUR HEALTH

Dermot Earley - Super Star

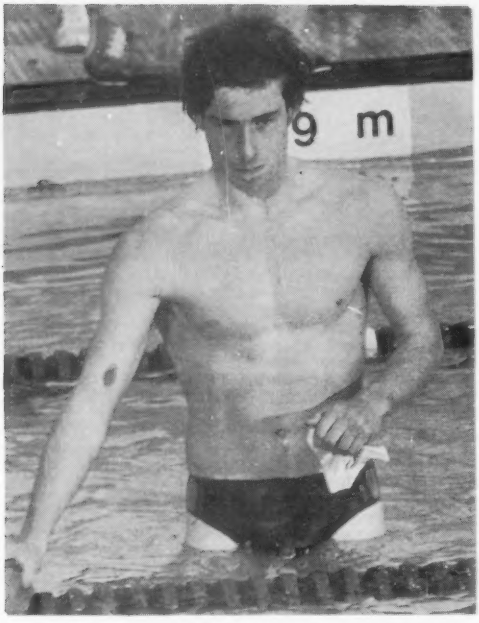
In a career of outstanding achievement in Gaelic Football Dermot Earley has brought great credit to both himself and the Army and to his County Roscommon. In all he has 18 All Army Sports Medals for Basketball, Football, Hurling and Rugby. Last year he won a National League Medal against Cork when Capt. Sean Kilbride also played for Roscommon and Capt. John Courtney for Cork. Although very conscious of the fact that football is a team game, Dermot has nevertheless achieved some notable personal triumphs; among these, 5 trips to the United States with All Star Teams, playing for the rest of Ireland twice, and being an ever present on the Connaught Railway Cup football team since 1967 (the only break in this sequence being in 1976 and 1977 when he was serving overseas with UNTSO).

While not admitting to having modelled himself on anyone, he nevertheless has a particular regard and admiration for Jimmy Duggan, the Galway footballer who retired last year. This is because they had a keen rivalry built up over the years, beginning with college days when Jimmy played for St. Jarlaths, Tuam and Dermot played for St. Nathys, Ballaghadereen and continuing right through many Connaught finals. He sees the emphasis on physical fitness and coaching as the greatest development in the game during his career. 'It has made the game much faster and the fitness demand is now much greater than it was at the beginning of my career'.

His only criticism of the game at present is that there should be a 'little more consistency in the interpretation and application of rules, and that if this was forthcoming it would help to improve the game enormously as a spectacle'.

His all-round fitness and ability was recently highlighted by his participation in the Superstars Competition where he succeeded in reaching the final. He found it an enjoyable experience and was happy enough with his performance, although he would have liked to have had more preparational training, especially with regard to skilled events.

P. O'G.



CADET FOR OLYMPICS?

CADET David Cummins, from Glasnevin, Dublin, and a member of the 56th Cadet Class, emphasised again last week-end his great ability by qualifying for the Olympics.

Already winner of a Levi Strauss Medal for youth in sport, and the Texaco Award for Swimming, David proceeded in the process to win three gold medals at the Optrex/Barnet Meet in Henden, North London.

By winning the 100 metres Butterfly, the 200 metres Backstroke and the 200 metres individual medley titles, he also beat the Olympic qualifying time. As the 18 year old Cadet admitted:

"My only problem now is deciding on my main Olympic event. I think at the moment it must be the 200 metres Backstroke. I feel really easy over the distance".

Along with his personal achievements, David did Irish Swimming a great service by putting it on a par with the British Standard and in fact, in the individual Medley and Backstroke, he even improved on the standing British Records.

David proved his ability and his international standing by winning the 200 metres Irish Backstroke record to 2 mins 6.64, which improved on the British Record by more than one second.

Earlier he was must outside the Irish Record when winning the 100 metres Butterfly in 57.81 seconds.

In the 100 metres Free Style final he faded towards the end, but still managed to touch third in 53.18 seconds just outside the standing Irish Record of 52.7 seconds.

Nevertheless, a haul of 3 Gold Medals and one Bronze in a meeting with the cream of British Swimmers, represents a major achievement for Cadet David Cummins and proves that Ireland now has a swimmer of genuine world standing.

P. O'G.

YOUNG SALT:

The chance to take early command, to have greater responsibility at the four to eight-year point, and to assume greater responsibility early on would be worth more than many of the material benefits touted by retention experts. The job satisfaction that seems built into a command-at-sea tour or an early position of high responsibility would be well placed at the early center point of an officer's career in terms of retaining the caliber of officer who signed on to sail. *PROCEEDINGS, U.S.*

NEW EQUIPMENT

ROTORK's TUBE BOAT

THE TB106 Tube boat is a 7 metre multi-role craft constructed of a number of large polythene tubes held together by steel spokes. Designed by Rotork Marine Ltd., Poole, Dorset, it can withstand rough handling and continual beaching in areas where the sea bed would normally be a danger for conventionally built craft. The idea of lashing together lengths of buoyant material to form a raft-like boat is not new. The Egyptians were operating papyrus boats on the Nile thousands of years ago, and in recent times the same principle was used for the famous KONTIKI expedition.

The polythene tubing is extremely hard wearing, to such an extent that the boat can be driven into jetties, piers or alongside ships without damaging itself. Its shallow draught, 27 cm with the outboard engine up, and 67 cm with the engine down, would make it a very useful craft indeed, especially for disaster relief in flooded areas, such as the Shannon floods of the fifties and sixties. The tube boat would also be useful as a personnel carrier and as a diving boat for adventure training.

Fitted with twin 40 HP outboard motors it can reach speeds in excess of 20 knots (22.8 mph to us foot infantry men) Weighing 1300 Kg, including motors, it can carry a payload of 1000 Kg, including fuel and crew.

Comdt. D. Lee

Members of the 4th Garr. Ordnance Coy., Custume Bks. who were recently promoted. L. to R: Cpls. D. McCarthy, D. Early, D. McCauliff. (Photo: Cpl. P. O'Callaghan)

6 Inf. Bn. personnel newly promoted L to R: Cpls. M. Coyne, N. Walsh, J. Keenan, C. McCormack, J. Bannon and C. Hurley. (Photo: Cpl. P. O'Callaghan)

LETTERS TO EDITOR

Cathal Brugha Bks.
Dublin

Editor,
An Cosantoir.

That fine bunch of 1940 PVOs sent in by Capt. Meehan requesting more names. I can supply a few but will also send the issue to Florida for Frank Clancy's leisurely perusal. The few I recognised I knew at once having had some connection with them. Others will know more.

2nd Row: 4 Paddy Needham; 7 Michael O'Connor, Tralee; 14 Frank Clancy (25 Bn.).
3rd Row: 11 Tommy Bower, Vet. S & T Curragh.

Mise le meas,

P. D. O'Donnell, Comdt.

Pastorsesch 3
4400 Munster 15
Germany.

Editor
An Cosantoir

Sir,

I read the review of Kenneth Macksey's book on Field Marshal Albert Kesselring ("An Cosantoir", December 1979, page 392) with interest. It was, however, rather unusual to have a review within a review dealing with the memoirs of Alexander Yakovlev. As a result some rather important points in Macksey's book have been missed. Allow me perhaps to mention a few of them

Macksey's book has quite a number of factual mistakes. This means that it cannot be the definitive biography of Kesselring. Macksey states on page 34 that General von Seeckt played a leading role in manipulating politicians in the aftermath of Germany's defeat in World War I. In examination of the facts, this will be seen to be quite an erroneous statement! The author assigns new names to some of the generals (e.g. Hasse, Stumpff and Blaskowitz; these should be corrected as well as the spelling of Frohlich, Ziegler, Adenauer, Fieseler Storch, Kamnhuber and Moltke).

Macksey writes that Kesselring was promoted ot Lieutenant Colonel in 1930. This was not the case. The author forgets to mention that Kesselring jumped over the rank of Colonel-Genefal to become a field Marshal. Macksey's assertion that Hitler spoke more often with Guderian than with the Chief of the General Staff (page 58) is quite simply wrong. Macksey writes that Kesselring received the Knight's Cross on 30.9.1939, but that Blaskowitz did not. In fact he did, and on the same day.

Macksey correctly emphasises the importance of "Enigma" and "Ultra" and states that the RAF could only have been surprised, if plans of the German Luftwaffe had not been spread by radio. His negative evaluation of the brilliant role of General der Panzertruppe Walther K. Nehring in Tunisia only shows that he does not quite know his subject. General Nehring's successful operations forced the Allies to postpone their offensive in Tunisia to the following Spring of 1943. Macksey over-emphasises Skorzeny's role in the liberation of Mussolini in 1943 and obviously is not acquainted with newer research on this subject.

Repeating a tendency in his book on Colonel-General Guderian, Macksey makes a number of snide remarks about other generals, e.g. on Lemelsen (page 215). Macksey's accompaniment to his central subject Kesselring is very often erroneous. However, he does justification to Kesselring as a man and as a soldier and shows that the emphasis on Rommel after World War II caused Kesselring to be overshadowed, this unjustly. In dealing with Africa and Italy, Rommel has very often been put in the limelight to the detriment of Kesselring.

On the whole Macksey's book on Kesselring is very readable and entertaining. Before taking it as a source for military history it should be regarded very critically, particularly in quoting dates and opinions on other generals.

Dr. Dermot Bradley

OBITUARY

SERGEANT MICHAEL BRADY

Just before Christmas 1979 ex Sgt. Mick (The Butch) Brady passed on to his eternal reward. It was a passing that is mourned by his many friends in the S & T Corps, in the Army and outside it. He was known all over the Corps as "the Butch" Brady and indeed very few knew his Christian name. This was a mark of the respect and affection in which he was held.

He served for most of his time with the S & T Units of the Western Command rising to the rank of Sergeant. He was a familiar and reassuring figure at breakdowns, and his arrival on the spot assured that the "lame duck" would be speedily repaired or recovered, and its passengers safely on their way. On retiring from the Forces, he took up a civilian appointment in Base Workshops, S & T, from whence he finally retired. The "Butch" maintained that the highlight of his career occurred on 11 February 1973 when in the Officers Mess, Clancy Barracks, he received a presentation to mark his 50 years service with the S & T Corps. The presentation was made by the then QMG, now Chief of Staff, Lt. Gen. Carl O'Sullivan, on behalf of the Officers of the Corps. The nature of the presentation, binoculars and season tickets for the Leopardstown and Phoenix Park Racecourses, give an indication of the second greatest love of his life - horseracing. His first love was the Army and he remained a bachelor, probably, it was said, because no woman could compete with his undying devotion to the Army.

After his final retirement, he lived in a few places in Dublin, but finally was successful in obtaining a pensioners flat in Islandbridge, just across the road from Clancy - he had come "home". Although bent double and on two sticks, he made his periodic visits to the Base Workshops, to the delight of his old friends and the reverence and awe of the young soldiers. To the latter he was a patriarchal figure, and let it be said to the credit of the military and civilian staff of the Unit, a friendly eye was always kept on him.

An accident combined with old age caused his admittance to Dr. Steeven's Hospital, where after a few weeks he passed away, at the age of 79. Even in the final days, despite his pain, he remained cheerful, and always showed respect to those he classified as his superiors. He was a man of strong loyalty, dedication and devotion to duty, a simple man with a refreshing innocence in his outlook. Of him it could be said "Here is a man in whom there is no guile".

His catch phrase "in it too, and all" will always be remembered and continue to commence a flow of anecdotes about what was truly a wonderful character.

Ar dheis Laimh De go raibh a anam mhor.

S. H.

Corrig House,
Corrig Ave.,
Dun Laoghaire,

The Editor,
An Cosantoir.

The Four Courts Shelling

Dear Sir,

The Mary's Abbey field-gun referred to by Comdt. P. D. O'Donnell (Jan. 1980), held a kind of 'watching brief' during the siege of the Courts. Its presence became a deterrent against escape or reinforcement in relation to the republican garrison, but it did not have a sustained operational target. Most likely, as Tony Lawlor will concede, some one at that gun 'fired a few shots' during the operation, but the shelling of the Four Courts came wholly from the field-gun positioned on the south side of the river, and that is the important point.

Emet Dalton mentioned Ignatius O'Neill as the likely propeller of the Kilmainham 'stray'. Those of us who knew the famed Ignatius, and his sometimes mischievous nature, would agree that idleness on his part, close to a gun, would be out of character!

General Sir Nevil MacCready made light of the incident. In his 'Annals of an Active Life' p. 656 he records, 'on the following day, (presumably the 28 June), one of their shrapnel burst over the Royal Hospital. Shortly afterwards an apology arrived, from which it appeared that the gun had gone off by mistake'.

Well, Well, Well!

Niall C. Harrington. Lt. Col. (Retd.)

THE ABC OF FLOOR CLEANING

Gerry Moran, marketing Manager, Reckitt Industrial

TO clean any building it is not sufficient to hire a crew of workers, provide them with buckets and mops and tell them to get on with the job. Cleaning staff must be instructed in what to clean, where to clean, how often to clean and the standard which is expected. They must also be provided with the right equipment to do the job. In other words a cleaning programme must be devised, and when designing such a programme, it is wise to consider what I would call the ABC of cleaning.

EXPERT ADVISE

Cleaning has become much more complicated than in the past because so many different types of floor coverings are now available. It has also become much more expensive.

Detailed planning of one's cleaning programme is therefore essential and this is where expert advice can help. Decisions which must be taken include the standard of appearance which is required in various areas in the building - this will vary greatly from say, the entrance hall to the stores. These decisions will determine the type of equipment and the number of cleaners which will be required.

The type of detergents and polish to be used will also have to be decided upon and instructions issued accordingly. This is very important because the wrong materials can damage the surface of floor coverings. For example, solvent-based detergents or polishes can damage vinyl and rubber floors, and water-based polishes should not be used on unsealed wood floors.

This kind of information is freely available from most major cleaning equipment and product manufacturers and should be availed of.

Perhaps you already have a cleaning programme in operation. If you have, ask yourself the following questions:

Is your present programme giving you the standard you require? Have your cleaning costs risen steeply? How long is it since your programme was updated? Have you had new floors or extensions since the programme was put in? How old are your machines and are they the right machines?

There are continual improvements being made in floor cleaning machines and products. It is essential to be aware of these improvements. Similarly there are new techniques of maintenance being evolved. Knowledge of these can cut costs and improve appearance.

It is an accepted fact in the industry that in most cleaning operations 90 per cent of the cost is labour and only 10 per cent equipment and materials. It is of paramount importance where designing a cleaning programme to mechanise the operation as much as possible and thereby reduce the cost.

Conventional scrubbing/polishing machines and wet suction machines, provided they are the right size, do an excellent job in medium sized buildings. They at least take the drudgery out of cleaning and ensure an excellent standard if used properly within a programme.

There are now on the market machines which scrub and dry in the one operation, and can easily be converted to polish and vacuum in the one operation. One of these machines, depending on size, can do the work of six people with conventional machines. Think what a tremendous saving in the cost of labour this mechanising of your cleaning job could give you.

Domestic type machines, which are still used in many large buildings, are little more than surface cleaners and do not get out the deep down grit which damages carpets. A good industrial vacuum machine, will not only do a more throough job but, there will be a tremendous saving in labour costs as some of these cleaners can vacuum 10,000 sq. ft. of carpet in an hour.

Finally it must be remembered that the initial cost of equipment is not the whole story. Where looking at equipment a most important thing to consider is after-sales service. A good rule is to buy from a reputable manufacturer with a good name for after sales service.

We at Reckitt Industrial, as well as being the biggest supplier of cleaning machines and materials in the country, pride ourselves on our first class after-sales service. We are also most diligent in keeping abreast of new developments in cleaning machines and materials and we are happy to pass this knowledge on to you through our free advisory service.

Think of it as 8 men with conventional scrubbing and drying machines

This is a Convertamatic 26B combined machine. By combined we mean that it will scrub and dry at the same time. Or by means of a simple adjustment, it can be made to vacuum, and polish simultaneously. And it will do either of these combined jobs in one pass over the floor.

Think what this means . . . You no longer get water and suds all over the place as happens when scrubbing and drying are done separately.

You no longer have trailing cables to contend with: this machine is battery-powered.

You cut cleaning costs, one man using the 26B can do the work of 8 men using conventional machines. It has a working speed of up to 1800 sq. ft. per hour.

For smaller spaces there is the 20B and the 17B.

Why not let us demonstrate to you that all we say is true by phoning for a demonstration.

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503488

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BOOK REVIEWS

THE SOLDIERS - An Anatomy of the British Army. Henry Stanhope. Hamish Hamilton. £9.95 net.

Mr. de Valera used to be conscious of Ireland's contribution as a mother country in its own right to the building up of the British Empire and Commonwealth. There was, however, no great general rush forward to claim credit for this. Nor was there any clamour to have the Irish contribution at all levels to the fabrication of the British Army acknowledged. The extent of that contribution is not discernible from this book either except for the author's remarks that the Army had always recruited heavily in Ireland, even during the early years of the present Northern Ireland troubles. Nowadays, apparently, units like the Irish Guards have become more dependent on first generation Irish born in Britain. This is a change in pattern as in the mid-nineteenth century a recruiting crisis in the British Army was caused by the famine here. There was never any appreciation, however. 'Punch' still went its merry churlish way with pigs in the parlour atin' shamrock.

The other Irish reference in the book makes for wry reading: that is the chapter on Peacekeeping in Ireland. The author does refer to the inadequacies of the 1969 RUC and the under-privileged and oppressed Catholic minority, mentioning that the initial task of the British Army was and I quote 'that of protecting the poor Catholic areas from vengeful Protestant mobs'. However, he displays a lack of political acumen when he suggests that a recipe to remedy the situation that got out of hand might be the insertion of a few aggressive Ghurka battalions. He shows more insight when in regretting the passing of colonial imbroglios to provide soldiers with experience, he finds that Northern Ireland does not quite fit that bill because, as he puts it 'political overtones have hardly allowed the fledgling fighter to throw his weight about'. Incidentally, the Northern Ireland troubles proved to be a turning point in Public Relations exercises. Every unit has its Public Relations Officer and great importance is now attached to this job. The Director of Public Relations is a Brigadier on the up and up and unless he falls flat on his face he goes on to become a Major-General. So the casual soldier interviewed on the telly is not talking off the top of his head. He is rehearsed in communication techniques which to be effective must nevertheless have the appearance of being spontaneous. There may be an appointments lesson here for us. In our own Army I think Public Relations is a sort of a poor relation - done in addition to other duties'. The difficulty is that like everything else extra that they do the Irish Army does it so well that the need for specialisation may not be readily apparent or pressing.

However, irresistable as these references to Ireland are this book is not about Ireland: it is about the New Model British Army and what makes it tick: its transition from being a largely conscript army in the early 1950s to what is now an increasingly married Army, whose wives and children on most camps outnumber the troops, with both the 'colonel's lady and Judy O'Grady' belting out of the house by 9 in the morning on her way to work.

The details of recruiting and training and career planning are very well done, but it seems that the big public schools, the old reservoir of 'the officer class' now try to send not only their best but their second and third best to University and not to Sandhurst as they did in the past. Still Eton has recently been supplying more boys than any single school, followed by some of the large Roman Catholic Schools, which have the reputation of being more disciplined than most. There are, however, several ways to win a commission with opportunity for promotion from the ranks. There are, of course, a multitude of endemic snobberies, with the inverted snobberies as virulent as the original poses. It's part of the British way of life: they seem to like it that way and it seems to work for them. These are attitudes however that do not transplant.

The race for promotion is pretty fierce. For the unambitious there are few problems but the distinction between high and low fliers is codified and explicit. The 'crunch' in an officer's career is whether he qualifies for selection for a place at Staff College when he sits the Captain-to-Major promotion examination at the age of twenty-nine. But right up to the end the officer is always wondering if he is going to make the next fence. This is often complicated by being in addition a race against the calendar clock all the way along until the time comes for resettlement in 'civvy life'. This transition is generally looked on with some apprehension, but ex-soldiers have a great asset of being instinctively loyal to any organisation which employs them. Many senior officers do not feel any pressure to start a second career and are only interested in the handyman's course which shows them how to look after their house in their old age. Indeed resettlement officers are always aggrieved because Press and TV camera men are never interested in anything but a shot of a general painting a ceiling or building a wall under the supervision of a burly bricklayer.

For those interested in resettlement, however, an increasing number of Army trade tests are recognised by civilian industries so a growing number of soldiers are leaving with useful qualifications in their pocket. Incidentally it may interest our Command and Staff students that attendance at the Staff College gives immediate exemption from part one of the Chartered Institute of Secretaries examination. A Staff Course pass is an asset in civvy street.

The Chapter on Regiments of Women is of topical interest here. It reads rather oddly that one of the difficulties at the introduction of women's services was a War Office worry as to whether ordnance officers would object to handling ladies undergarments. At a different level it can perhaps be seen what he means when he refers to the United States in particular widening the scope for their servicewomen 'with almost excessive zeal'. The Women West Point cadets can do almost anything the boys can do though recent stories of them being required to bite through a live chicken's neck until it was dead to prove that they were not squeamish have had a cool reception from the public. The British persist in 'vive la difference' and beauticians are encouraged to visit if only to neutralize any hint of a 'butch' image prevailing. However, they are increasingly being integrated and women function for instance as assistant adjutants in Artillery regiments. The women it seems love the drill but the requirement to increase the scope of weapon training in these days of no fixed fronts remain a problem.

For Command and Staff Students the best parts of the book perhaps are those on organisations to see how this British genius for compromise and muddling through weds the Regimental system, which nurses esprit de corps, to the practical requirement of tailoring composite task forces to do particular jobs. Don't forget that the Artillery packs a monster computerised nuclear punch nowadays.

Henry Stanhope has been Defence Correspondent to the *Times* and there is a foreword by the Duke of Kent. I found the book compulsive reading and strongly recommend it. It is readable as you would expect from a journalist but it is also very well researched. It is a comprehensive survey of the British Army covering where they come from, what they wear, how they are paid, and asking how tough are the SAS, how elitist are the Household Cavalry and how competent are the cooks, and much more including a peep into that peculair British world of Clubland where it would appear women have not yet fully penetrated. A wide range of readers will enjoy this book. But then I am retired and that tends to fill up the auld nostalgia.

J. P. D.

"BATTLE FOR BURMA" E. D. Smith. Batsford. £8.75 + VAT. 192 pages. 12 maps. 16 pages of black and white photographs.

The military life of Brigadier E. D. "Birdie" Smith began as an officer cadet in India in the dark and evil days of 1942. Here he learned the meaning of demoralization for he was in the midst of the vanquished - the people who had been driven out of Burma by the Japanese in four months flat. And the only cheer they could muster was derived from the Chindit raids. Quite a comedown for a once proud army.

Lucky for him his participation in the Battle for Burma was to be spiritual rather than physical for he served in the, less messy, Middle East. For four years the struggle for Burma went its far

from merry way. The author was ever anxious to know how the chaps were getting on and, his curiosity still excited, he took each chance he could get to discover what really happened. His career afforded him much opportunities, particularly his subsequent service in South East Asia. He built up quite a comprehensive picture of the Battle over the years and he got browned off hearing simplistic judgements and movies which made out that Errol Flynn won the war - on his 'tod! So, soon as the Brigadier retired, down to work he got. The result is this book.

The Battle for Burma was of course a frightfully complex business. Idealogical struggles; internal security problems in India; variety in approach to, and conduct of, war by the, so called, allies; logistical problems of immense proportions and the "back burner" status accorded this theatre by the Grand Strategists all helped to almost paralyse the war machine there. And when the Grand Strategists spared a thought for the strugglers it was a romantic rather than a realistic thought. The very determined men who conducted this battle had a lot to put up with. They also had to put up with one another! For here were 'Vinegar Joe' Stilwell, Merrill, Wingate Chiang Kai Shek and lots of other tetchy characters. Here too the dignified Mountbatten was not always loved, Slim and Fergusson got a lot of unpleasantness too and accepted much of it with grace. John 'Bugles and a Tiger' Masters was in there too leading his battalion. Even Chandi is in this pot pourri of heaving pushing shouting humanity. Like I said . . a frightfully complex business.

Birdie Smith tells the story well. He has the breath of vision which allows him to be fair to the leaders but he is a soldier too and soldier sentiments run through the text. For he knows the rage felt at the cockups - some of which were monumental, and, in some cases, arguably, avoidable. He also has the soldiers sense of fair play and he exposes some cases where the wrong man got the kudos (or the blame!). He sings the praises of many cruelly forgotten men.

You will like his style because he 'comes at you' like a great lecturer moving with authority through great complexity and making the odd down to earth remark. But this is a book and there is no reassuring whack of billiard cue against 'drop', no well-rehearsed library-sergeant moving symbols over a cloth model. The result is; you've got to work your way through the battles of the campaign. It will tax your mental energy and strain your powers of imagination. So forget the entertainment idea. The pleasure will be in your accomplishment rather than in the doing.

The insights afforded by Burma are formidable (and some were well applied by the British in Malaya in the fifties). But they are not merely the lessons of jungle warfare; there is much to learn of logistics, of man-management and of other nitty gritties. And then there is that enigmatic force more evident today than then; the force Christopher Dawson has described as 'the xenophobe of oriental nationalism'. Brigadier Smith affords us the benefit of his deep understanding of this phenomenon.

Every book has faults, this one is no exception. Here they arise principally from the effort to get so much between two covers which are close together. Inelegant 'pruning' and sudden scene shifts can put you off your game. But what to do? I recommend an adaption of Artemus Ward's device; whenever we get to one of these breaks the author should insert the words "Fall out for a smoke!" One might find fault with the price too. But remember, books are getting dearer all the time. Perhaps you can ask your library to order the book knowing that more than you will want to read it.

Capt. Cathal Loftus

TANK TRACKS TO RANGOON, Bryan Perrett. Hale Ltd. London. £6.50.

This account of the "forgotten army" concentrates on the role played by armour in this almost forgotten campaign. Due to the close, rugged nature of the battle zone, practically all armoured engagements were on a small scale, with very few engagements at squadron level or above. A lot of the action described was at troop or even individual tank level. This makes the book much more interesting than other accounts of this war, or most other military histories which tend to concentrate on the broad picture. This history is related on a very personal basis with first hand accounts of engagements by the officers and NCOs who participated.

The use of tanks in such close jungle terrain makes a very interesting study. The emphasis throughout the book is on very close infantry/tank co-operation. Tanks used by the allies in this campaign included Stuart, Valentine, Lee/Grant, and Sherman. Neither the Japanese tanks or their crews proved to be a match for the allied armour at any stage, so tank V tank encounters were few and one sided.

This is an excellent book, well worth a detailed study, especially by junior tank and infantry commanders.

E. Horgan

THE MEMOIRS OF SERGEANT BOURGOGNE 1812-13. Arms and Armour Press. pp 356. £5.95 + VAT.

These memoirs were written by a Sergeant in Napoleon's Imperial Guard and were first published in 1857 and it is to the credit of Arms and Armour Press that they have seen fit to republish them. As Napoleon's retreat from Moscow was one of the greatest military epics, accordingly it has been well covered by historians and other writers not least by Tolstoy's 'War and Peace'. Bourgogne's book is different in that it does not deal with the 'big picture' and cares nothing about the strategic and tactical plans of the withdrawal, but it is still a classic source for students of the period. Indeed writers such as Tolstoy are reputed to have used some of Bourgogne's descriptions in their own works.

It is Bourgogne's eye witness descriptions that make this book so fascinating. The hardship and suffering that resulted in only 93,000 out of 600,000 returning to France, is vividly brought to the fore by the description of thousands of little incidents that Bourgogne manages to mesh together into one extremely satisfactory whole.

The quality of Napoleon's leadership is highlighted by the fact that at no place in the book is there uttered one criticism of him for leading his men into such a predicament. The book is worth the money for its account of the burning of Moscow alone, and I can unreservedly recommend this book to not only those interested in history but also to the general reader.

P. Y.

FROM RECRUIT TO STAFF SERGEANT. N. W. Bancroft. Ian Henry Publications. £4.95.

This book is similar to the 'Memoirs of Sergeant Bourgogne' in that it is written from the ranks and does not involve itself in strategic or tactical questions. It is amazing that Bancroft could write at all not to mind writing such a fascinating book as he left school at nine years of age to become a boy soldier in India.

This book is a must for all Artillerymen as Bancroft was a member of the Bengal Horse Artillery equipped by the East India Company. The introduction to the book by major General B. P. Hughes will be of particular interest to them as it deals with the evolution of the Artillery gun and its strategic and tactical development. The tasks to be carried out by individual members of the gun crews are even detailed. How Artillery tactics evolved are graphically illustrated on a practical level by Bancroft as he describes the casualties suffered from battle to battle and the steps taken to prevent such casualties.

The units in India had a very high proportion of Irishmen and the Horse Artillery was no exception. Bancroft writes very humorously of the many scrapes the Irishmen in his unit were involved in (complete with Irish brogue!).

As a social history of the military in India, this book is of great value. The only criticism I can find with the book is that the pages look as if they were photocopied and the quality of the printing suffers as a result.

P. Y.

Correction

In the review of *Suez the Double War* published last month the end of the third paragraph should read 'there were NO troops either French or British immediately ready to go into action'.

KARL MARX - A Political Biography. Fritz J. Raddatz. Weidenfeld and Nicholson. London. 335pp. £10.00.

I suppose the one thing on earth of which there is no shortage is a biography of Karl Marx, or indeed any of the notable historical figures who espoused or advanced the cause of the Left. The natural reaction to a book like this would tend to be an evaluation of its real worth on the basis of that simple question "Does it throw any new light on the subject?"

The answer is an unqualified affirmative. On the very first page we learn that "Heinrich Heine's great-great-grandparents were Karl Marx's great-great-great-grandparents". That may not be of earth-shaking import, but the good biographer, for me at any rate, is the one who can unearth minor gems of information which escape less flexible or imaginative chronicles.

Indeed the item mentioned may be said to be of considerable significance in that it establishes the position and status of Marx's ancestors in the society of 18th century Germany. Then there is the matter of his being baptized a Christian, together with his father, his five sisters and his brother Hermann (but not his mother) all on the same day, August 26th, 1824.

This was not so much a renunciation of the faith of his fathers by Marx Senior as it was a rationalisation of the position of Jews in Europe at the beginning of the 19th century. It did have one by-product however - when young Karl grew to manhood his open hostility to Jews and Judaism was never concealed.

This is the first of the contrasts which characterised this man's life. The author of the proletarian gospel was a man who loved to live in comfort with good food, fine wines and expensive clothes. The protagonist of the dogma of "from each according to his abilities, to each according to his needs "saw nothing incongruous in living on handouts (but quite substantial handouts) from friends and colleagues, but most of all from Engels.

The man who was to play a fundamental role in establishing the classless society was himself an enormous snob, whose constant boast was that his wife Jenny had been born a "Baroness von Westphalen". Indeed Marx himself openly admitted that his personal philosophy could never be reconciled with an open egalitarian society, a dream which he was quite happy to see postponed until after he himself was dead. The fact is that Karl Marx probably never allowed himself to get within an ass's roar of a real worker. He egged them on to rise from their lowly status, and burst the bonds of poverty and starvation, but never personally raised a finger to do anything practical about their plight. Finally there is the delicious irony that of all the nationalities he despised, the Russians were the absolute bottom of the pile. It would have been in any other country that Marx would have wished his theories to be put into practice. What a shock it would have been to him if some pre-vision had allowed him to see that only in the Soviet Union would his name be universally honoured and revered?

Is this book no more then, than a litany of Marxist contradicitions and inconsistencies? Most certainly not. In fact, for me one of the great feats on the part of the author was to make that unbelievably boring work "Das Kapital" not only logical and relevant but comprehensible as well. Like millions of others, I've tried to read it but could never stick the heavy going. Thanks to this book we can now appreciate how its author came to one of the most influential political thinkers of all time. We can't ignore the results of Marx's labours, but books like this will at least give us a better idea of the mind and man behind that awesome beard and profile.

M. D. B.

THE IRISH SWORD. Vol. XIII. Summer 1979. No. 52.

This is a special Commemorative Issue of the Journal of the Military History Society of Ireland and the articles deal with the Volunteers of 1778. Several fine portraits of Volunteers are included by kind permission of the Ulster Museum Belfast and the National Museum of Ireland. An article by Eileen Black, "Volunteer Portraits in the Ulster Museum", looks at the collection in the northern city.

"Our Cloud Cap't Grenadiers" by Peter Smyth studies the Volunteers as a military force and concludes they were really a national police force.

K. P. Ferguson in "The Volunteer Movement 1778-1783" points out that 'the gallantly named corps with their bright coloured uniforms gorgeously faced, the drills, the parades, marches, reviews and sham fights, provided outlets for the emotions now catered for by the scout movement, hiking and dictatorships.'

Padraig O'Snodaigh in "Some Police and Military Aspects of the Irish Volunteers" states that 'they were the cutting edge of the Establishment at local level, the upholders of the status quo'.

Frank Forde

MOUNTED COMBAT IN VIETNAM. Gen. Donn A. Starry. (Published by Dept. of the Army, Washington).

Because it is not yet possible to make a "detailed and objective analysis" of the war in S. E. Asia, the U.S. Army has produced a series of monographs called "Vietnam Studies". Some of these have already been reviewed in "An Cosantoir".

This one is excellently written in clear, crisp English and covers American and Vietnamese use of armour up to January 1973 (when the U.S. advisers left). Much use is made of the good American system of producing "after-action reports". There is a separate monograph on "Air Cavalry", but Gen. Starry also deals with it briefly; he says it was misused for staff and escort purposes.

He has much to say about Viet Cong tactics and weapons. The RPG7 and mines (laid at random, not in patterns) "were the enemy's most successful anti-armour devices. Although many measures to defeat them were tried, no adequate means was ever found." Sand-bagging vehicle floors caused overloading problems - also met with by UNTSO in the Sinai.

There are references to the difficulties which modern equipment brings to armies with an inadequate technical background. "The inclination to disregard maintenance before, during and after an operation" bedevils more armies than the Vietnamese. Some expertise in improvisation only partly offset "an inadequate supply system and no turret or support unit mechanics" in ARVN tank units.

Even the Americans themselves had repair problems. "Supply and maintenance elements were unprepared psychologically and in practice to live in the field close to units they supported . . . the use of teams for major repairs at a unit's location, however popular with units, was not popular with logisticians," The authors go on to say that "many of the problems . . . particularly the attitude of the support units, exist today and would create the same difficulties in a war . . . in Europe." If you think there are problems with spares in UN operations read pages 183-4 of this book!

The authors hold that armour was used too late, and in too piece-meal a way. There are, however, only passing references to another problem much discussed since the Vietnam war. This problem shows up very clearly in the Appendix listing commanders of armoured units. There are hundreds of names from 1965-1972. Hardly any of them served more than six months. There were reasons - the need to give command experience to as many officers as possible is often quoted. It seems now agreed that these Commanders could not have settled into their jobs before it was time to hand over. Their men were also in a state of constant rotation - most were draftees. "Ticket punching" and "careerism" are dirty words in the U.S. Army today. Many officers feel that the "command time" policy in Vietnam contributed to the attitude these terms so graphically describe. And, in typical American fashion, they are setting about thorough reforms.

E. D.

Casement Aerodrome,
Baldonnel,

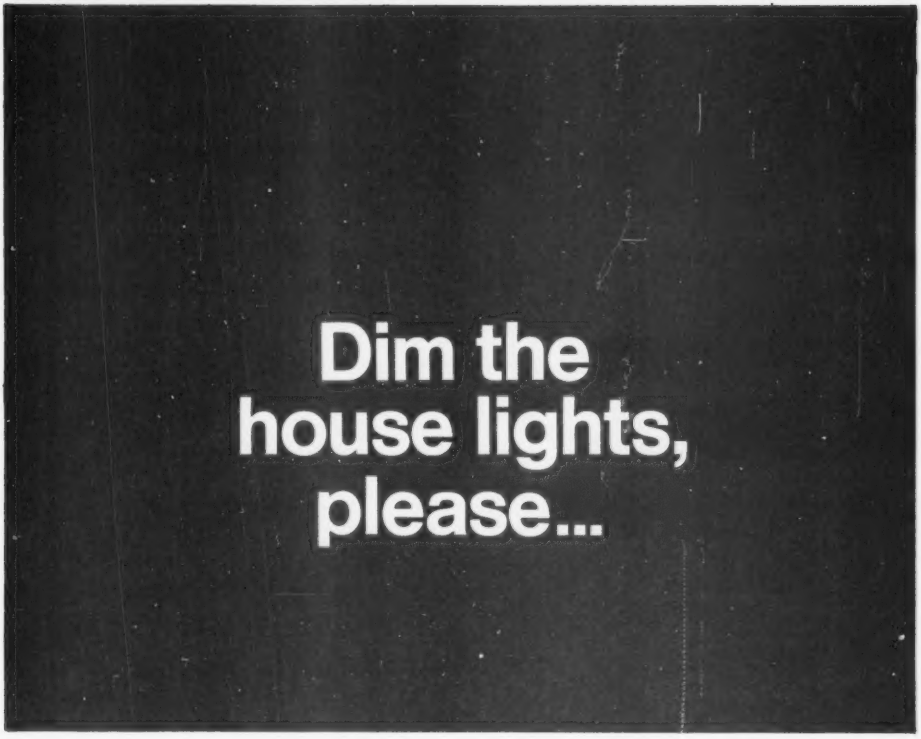
The Editor,
An Cosantoir.

Sir,

I would like to bring to your attention an error in the January edition of "An Cosantoir".

The Defence Forces Badminton Doubles Championship in 1979 was won by Lt. R. Cummins and Cadet J. Killock. Lt's Healy and Dooley were the runners-up.

R. Cummins, Lt.



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